

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed on April 30, 2004, has been carefully considered and the Examiner's remarks are appreciated. Claims 1-21, 31, and 32 are canceled. And claims 23, 25-30, and 33-35 stand allowed. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the remaining claims 22 and 24 in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

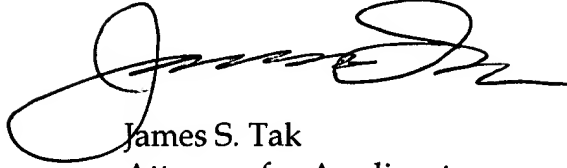
The Examiner objected to an informality in the Specification, now corrected. And claim 22 was objected due to an informality regarding the term "loose particulate composition." Applicants have adopted the Examiner's suggestion for claim 22 with a conforming amendment.

Regarding the double patenting rejections of claim 31 over claim 22, and claim 32 over claim 24, Applicants have canceled claims 31 and 32.

Regarding the §103(a) rejections of claims 1, 4-17, Applicants have canceled these claims without prejudice.

Applicants therefore respectfully submit that claims 22 and 24 are in condition for allowance, and request allowance of claims 22 and 24 in addition to already allowed claims 23, 25-30, and 33-35. In the event that the Examiner finds any remaining impediment to the prompt allowance of these claims that could be clarified with a telephone conference, he is respectfully requested to initiate the same with the undersigned at (925) 422-7274.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James S. Tak', with a large, stylized initial 'J'.

Dated: November 1, 2004

By:

James S. Tak
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 46,367

Lawrence Livermore National
Laboratory
7000 East Avenue, L-703
Livermore, CA 94550
TEL: (925) 422-7274
FAX: (925) 423-2231